



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/586,480	06/01/2000	Frank Reisinger	P00.0955	8303

7590

09/11/2002

Steven H Noll
Schiff Hardin & Waite
Patent Department
6600 Sears Tower
Chicago, IL 60606

EXAMINER

CHARLES, DEBRA F

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3629

DATE MAILED: 09/11/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/586,480

Applicant(s)

REISINGER, FRANK

Examiner

Debra F. Charles

Art Unit

3629

-- Th MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondenc address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 June 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 1.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

Claims 1-14 have been reviewed.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Allocca et al. (US 4138735).

As per claim 1, Allocca et al. disclose an arrangement for loading rate table data comprising: a postage meter; an external scale having a postage calculator; a modem which receives rate table data from an external source; and a switchover module connected between said postage meter, said scale and said modem and having a control line for setting a switching state of said switchover module to selectively conduct data downloading to said postage meter of rate table data for said postage calculator(Allocca et al., Abstract, Cols. 1-5 and 6, Lines 1-21).

As per claim 2, Allocca et al. disclose an arrangement as claimed in claim 1 comprising a postage meter machine containing said postage meter, and wherein said switchover module is contained within said postage meter machine(Allocca et al., Abstract, Cols. 1-5 and 6, Lines 1-21).

As per claim 3, Allocca et al. disclose an arrangement as claimed in claim 2 wherein said postage meter machine comprises an input/output control module containing a modem interface and a scale interface, and wherein said postage calculator comprises a postage calculator interface, said switchover module being connected between said modem interface, said scale interface and said postage calculator interface and said scale comprising means for supplying a signal on said control line to switch said switchover module to a switching state wherein said postage calculator, via said postage calculator interface, directly receives said rate table data(Allocca et al., Abstract, Cols. 1-5 and 6, Lines 1-21).

As per claim 4, Allocca et al. disclose an arrangement as claimed in claim 3 wherein said switchover module comprises a first contact group connected to said modem, and

Art Unit: 3629

connected to said modem interface via a first set of four lines, a second contact group connected to said postage calculator interface and to said scale interface via a second set of four lines, and a driver connected to said control line for operating said first and second contact groups to set said switching state of said switchover module dependent on a signal on said control line(Allocca et al., Abstract, Cols. 1-5 and 6, Lines 1-21).

As per claim 5, Allocca et al. disclose an arrangement as claimed in claim 4 wherein said postage calculator interface comprises an RS-232 interface, and wherein each of said first and second sets of four lines comprises a TXD transmission line, an RXD reception line, a DTR reception readiness line, and a DSR transmission readiness line(Allocca et al., Abstract, Cols. 1-5 and 6, Lines 1-21).

As per claim 6, Allocca et al. disclose an arrangement as claimed in claim 4 wherein said control line is also connected to said postage calculator interface, which supplies said signal on said control line to set said switching state of said switchover module(Allocca et al., Abstract, Cols. 1-5 and 6, Lines 1-21).

As per claim 7, Allocca et al. disclose an arrangement as claimed in claim 6 wherein said scale comprises a keyboard having an actuatable selection key, said keyboard being at least indirectly connected to said postage calculator interface and actuation of said selection key causing said signal to be generated on said control line for setting said switching state of said switching module to cause said rate table data to be directly supplied to said postage calculator(Allocca et al., Abstract, Cols. 1-5 and 6, Lines 1-21).

As per claim 8, Allocca et al. disclose an arrangement as claimed in claim 7 wherein said postage calculator operates with existing rate table data and wherein said rate table data from said external source comprise updated rate table data, and wherein said postage calculator includes a first memory area wherein said existing rate table data are stored and a second memory area wherein said updated rate table data are stored after actuation of said selection key, said updated rate table data including conversion data identifying an effective date of the updated rate table data, and said postage calculator having a third memory area in which said conversion data are stored, and said postage calculator automatically replacing said existing rate table data with said updated rate table data at a time of first use of said postage calculator following said effective date(Allocca et al., Abstract, Cols. 1-5 and 6, Lines 1-21).

As per claim 9, Allocca et al. disclose an arrangement as claimed in claim 8 wherein said updated rate table data further include data representing additional information, and wherein said postage calculator has a fourth memory area for storing said data representing additional information(Allocca et al., Abstract, Cols. 1-5 and 6, Lines 1-21).

As per claim 10, Allocca et al. disclose an arrangement as claimed in claim 8 wherein said scale comprises a clock/date module connected to said postage calculator, and wherein said postage calculator is programmed to automatically compare a date

Art Unit: 3629

supplied by said clock/date module with said conversion data and to replace said existing rate table data with said updated rate table data when said conversion data equal or follow said date supplied by said clock/date module(Allocca et al., Abstract, Cols. 1-5 and 6, Lines 1-21).

As per claim 11, Allocca et al. disclose an arrangement as claimed in claim 1 comprising a postage meter machine containing said postage meter, and wherein said modem switchover module is disposed externally of said postage meter machine(Allocca et al., Abstract, Cols. 1-5 and 6, Lines 1-21).

As per claim 12, Allocca et al. disclose an arrangement as claimed in claim 11 wherein said scale with said postage calculating module is external from said postage meter machine(Allocca et al., Abstract, Cols. 1-5 and 6, Lines 1-21).

As per claim 13, Allocca et al. disclose an arrangement as claimed in claim 11 wherein said switchover module and said external modem are combined to form a docking station(Allocca et al., Abstract, Cols. 1-5 and 6, Lines 1-21).

As per claim 14, Allocca et al. disclose an arrangement as claimed in claim 11 wherein said switchover module in said postage calculator are combined and are both disposed externally from said postage meter machine(Allocca et al., Abstract, Cols. 1-5 and 6, Lines 1-21).

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Dlugos et al., System for Updating Postal Rate Information Utilized by Remote Mail Processing Apparatus.

Haroutel, Letter Scale and Franking Machine Incorporating Same.

Piccione, User Programmable Postal Rate Calculator.

Dlugos et al., Parcel Postage Metering System.

Feinland et al., Mailing System Having A Capacity for One-step Postage Metering.

Art Unit: 3629

Yankloski, Automatic Mailing Machine.

Kara, System and Method for Storing, Retrieving and Automatically Printing Postage on Mail.

Daniels, Postage Metering System with Display.

Maher et al., Apparatus for Controlling A Postage Meter and Selecting An Inscription.

Schwartz et al., Electronic Postage Scale System and Method.

Manduley et al., Remote Activation of Rating Capabilities in a Computerized Parcel Manifest System.

Ikekita, Electronic Scale with CRT Display.

Haug, Franking Machine.

Hikita et al., Electronic Scale System.

Cordery et al., PC-Based Open Metering System and Method.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Debra F. Charles whose telephone number is (703) 305-4718. The examiner can normally be reached on 9-5 Monday thru Friday.

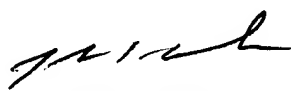
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Weiss can be reached on (703) 308-2702. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 305-7687 for regular communications and (703) 305-7687 for After Final communications.

Art Unit: 3629

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.

Debra F. Charles
Examiner
Art Unit 3629

dfc
September 8, 2002



JOHN G. WEISS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600